



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

May 1, 1997

Hidesuke Kobayashi, M.D.  
Director-General  
Health Service Bureau  
Ministry of Health and Welfare  
1-2-2, Kasumigaseki  
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo  
100 JAPAN

Dear Dr. Kobayashi:

Thank you for your letter of April 17, 1997, concerning the proposed nomination of Dr. Shigenobu Nagataki as Chairman of the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF).

I have reviewed the credentials of Dr. Nagataki, and I am very pleased that the Ministry of Health and Welfare is recommending his appointment as RERF Chairman. I am certain that he will be a worthy successor to Dr. Itsuzo Shigematsu and that under his guidance the RERF will maintain its international status as the premier foundation for the study of the health effects of radiation exposure.

It will be my pleasure to meet both Dr. Nagataki and Dr. Shigematsu in June in Washington, D.C., at the events commemorating the first 50 years of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission/RERF and to wish them both well. I hope that the staffs of the Department of Energy and the Ministry of Health and Welfare will use the opportunity provided by this commemoration and the RERF Board Meeting to continue their fruitful discussions on policies that will strengthen the RERF in the future.

Thank you again for recommending an outstanding candidate as RERF Chairman.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tara O'Toole", is written over a horizontal line.

Tara O'Toole, M.D., M.P.H.  
Assistant Secretary  
Environment, Safety and Health

